

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2768

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY ADOPTS POSITION OF "ACTIVE
AND CRITICAL INDEPENDENCE" FROM GOC

1. SUMMARY: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) HAS WRITTEN
INTERNAL PARTY POLICY DOCUMENT WHICH STATES PARTY'S POSTURE
SHOULD BE ONE OF "CRITICAL AND ACTIVE INDEPENDENCE" FROM
PRESENT GOVERNMENT, WHICH IT TERMS A "DICTATORSHIP OF THE
RIGHT". DOCUMENT ADVOCATES PDC CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE MILITARY
IT IS NOT IN THEIR INTEREST TO REMAIN TOO LONG IN GOVT.,
MEANWHILE WORKING TOWARDS FORMATION OF A COHESIVE FRONT OF
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES. DOCUMENT IS RESULT OF INTERNAL
PARTY DELIBERATIONS STARTING SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AND HAS
LEAKED OUT. NO GOC REACTION YET, BUT GOVT WILL PROBABLY
CONSIDER DECLARATION PROVOCATIVE, THEREBY WIDENING GAP BETWEEN
GOC AND PDC. END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE-POINT PDC DOCUMENT BEGINS BY DESCRIBING PRESENT SYSTEM
AS "DICTATORSHIP OF THE RIGHT WITH FASCIST OVERTONES AND A
TENDENCY TO PERPETUATE ITSELF". PRESENT GOC POLICY IS "ERRONEOUS,
UNJUST, AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH OUR PRINCIPLES."

3. PDC POSITION, THEREFORE, IS ONE OF "ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT
CRITICISM." ALTERNATIVES OF "HEAD-ON OPPOSITION", "RESISTANCE,"
"COLLABORATION", AND "MERE PASSIVITY" ARE SPECIFICALLY REJECTED.

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4. OVERRIDING PDC GOAL IS NOW "A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY", POLICY WHICH IS NOT DESIGNED TO BE ANTI-MILITARY BUT RATHER SHOULD ENCOMPASS ARMED FORCES.

5. CONSEQUENTLY, PDC WILL EMBARK UPON A CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE COUNTRY AND ARMED FORCES THAT PRESENT "FORMULA" IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR SOLUTION OF CHILE'S PROBLEMS AND THAT INDEFINITE STAY OF ARMED FORCES IN GOVT KEEPS THEM AWAY FROM THEIR PROFESSIONAL MISSION, WEAKENS THEM, AND CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO THEIR INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY. PARTY FAVORS FORMATION OF A "FRONT" COMPOSED OF "ORGANIZED SOCIAL SECTORS, IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENTS, AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY." THE "BROAD FRONT" (FRENTE AMPLIO) INCLUDING MARXIST-LENINIST PARTIES IS EXPLICITLY REJECTED.

6. PARTY DECIDED "THAT THE ABOVE AGREEMENTS ARE OBLIGATORY FOR ALL PARTY MEMBERS."

7. COMMENT: DECLARATION IS RESULT OF PROCESS WHICH BEGAN IN LATE 1974, WITH OPINION POLL OF TOP AND MIDDLE LEVELS OF PDC LEADERSHIP (SANTIAGO A-25). ONCE RESULTS WERE IN AND ANALYZED, PARTY QUICKLY CONVOKED NATIONAL PLENARY, COMPOSED OF ALL IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP LEVELS OF PARTY, TO DECIDE ON FUTURE COURSE OF PARTY ACTION. "MEETING" TOOK THE FORM OF FACE-TO-FACE CONSULTATIONS AND DELIBERATIONS IN COMMITTEE LASTING OVER ONE OR TWO MONTHS RATHER THAN ONE GRAND RALLY. NET RESULT IS ABOVE DECLARATION. COPIES WITHOUT ANY PDC ATTRIBUTION HAVE LEAKED AND NOW FOUND THEIR WAY TO FOREIGN WIRE SERVICES IN SANTIAGO, WHICH IN TURN HAVE FILED STORIES FOR DISTRIBUTION ABROAD.

8. NO GOVT REACTION TO DATE, EVEN THOUGH IT MUST BE ASSUMED GOC IS AWARE OF DECLARATION. WE BELIEVE THAT, ONCE THEY FOCUS ON IT, GOC LEADERS WILL FIND DECLARATION PROVOCATIVE, AND PRESENT GULF BETWEEN GOC AND PDC WILL WIDEN EVEN FURTHER. WE HEAR FROM GOOD SOURCES THAT PDC HAS ORDERED AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS HOLDING IMPORTANT GOVT JOBS TO RESIGN, WITH SOME CHOOSING TO STAY ON PAYROLL RATHER THAN ADHERE TO PARTY DISCIPLINE. UPSHOT MAY WELL BE TO FORTIFY HARDLINE POSITION
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WITHIN GOC THAT PDC CANNOT BE TRUSTED AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN "ENEMY", WHILE FURTHER REDUCING CHANCES THAT GOC CAN BROADEN ITS BASE OF POLITICAL SUPPORT.

9. PDC LEADER CLOSE TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI TOLD EMBOFF OF PARTY'S CONCERN ABOUT LEAK AND REALIZATION DOCUMENT IS VERY HOT. BASIC INTENTION OF POLICY OUTLINED IN IT, HOWEVER, IS NOT ANTI-GOC PER SE BUT EVENTUAL DIALOGUE WITH GOC AND ENCOURAGEMENT

OF IT TO MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY.
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